

From: Rob Kahlbaum
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 9:18pm
Subject: Comments on Microsoft Settlement

Hello, my name is Robert Kahlbaum. I am a student at Eastern Michigan University, and I am about 1 year away from graduating with a Bachelors degree in Computer Science. I have been working in my field for approximately 2 and a half years now, and as I look at my employment options post graduation, my options seem limited. It seems from the research that I have done in my choice of career, I have one option; program under Microsoft Windows. Everywhere I look, companies want MS Windows programmers, or they want you to be familiar with the Windows operating systems.

I have been keeping track of this trial since its conception, and when Microsoft was deemed a monopoly, I felt that I might finally get some options as to how my career will go. Then, the settlement was agreed to, and my hopes were struck down. It seems that the government, and 9 of the states involved with the trial, including my own state, have agreed to a solution that will only further Microsofts monopoly. It also seems that this agreement allows microsoft to continue its monopolistic practices in other venues. My question is, how can a company that has been deemed a monopoly, not be punished as a monopoly?

Because of the current settlement, I will be continuing to learn how to program under Microsoft Windows. I will be helping further their monopoly because I have few choices of where to work, because Microsoft is where the money is. I admit that I can work anywhere that I want, but it seems that if I want to be successful, and make a living, I have only 1 option. I am hoping that the other 9 states can come up with a remedy that will give me, and other soon to be graduating college students like me, a chance to make a broader choice as to where and how I want to make a living.

Thank you for your time,

Robert Kahlbaum
Eastern Michigan University Student